SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: In the previous Food for Work Programme, about 2 million tonnes of food were distributed each year to create millions of mandays. Anyway, it was stopped. Even the NREP, RLEGP, IRDP and anti-poverty programme can easily constitute an alternative strategy of rural development if the stockpile of foodgrains available with the public agencies are allocated and properly used for these anti-poverty programmes. Will this Government give the most [illegible] thought to this?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, as I have already mentioned, this question which the hon. Member is referring to belongs to Agricultural Ministry, particularly Rural Development Department. As far as, we are concerned, the Rural Development Department asks for food and we supply the food to that Department. It is their business to further distribute through NREP.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण : सर, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतायेंगे कि जहां तक भारत सरकार से स्टेट गवर्नमेंट तक की सप्लाई का तालुक है, वह मोर देन नार्मल है और फर्दर डिस्ट्रिब्यूटन में इसलिये डिटिरियोरेशन है कि वहां एक पर्टिकुलर पार्टी एक पर्टिकुलर ग्रुप को एम्पलाई कराना चाहती है और उस परपज के लिये वहां दो मर्डर भी हो चुके हैं और वहां दो डिपो बन्द किये, जिससे सप्लाई डिटिरियोरेटेड है। क्या इस बारे में मंत्री जी बतायेंगे ? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, he is abusing his right.

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN: I am not abusing my right. I am stating the fact. Two murders have taken place because a particular party wants a particular group to be employed. For that reason two depots in West Bengal have been closed. They are not at all functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question not relevant. Next question.

Restructuring of SAIL

*146. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:†
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited is being restructured; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I have one thousand press cuttings and some of the national dailies have carried stories on April 6 and 7 saying that SAIL is being restructured. However, since the time is short, I am not going to argue about it. Perhaps the answer is technical. However, I would like to know whether SAIL is implementing any plan under which there will be fewer levels and greater vertical interaction through a flatter organisation. I also want to know whether it is correct that the approval system and promotion policy have been revised to avoid role clarity and performance orientation, whether the recruitment system has also been revised and whether the level of overtime has been reduced.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, the question put was: is the Steel Authority of India Limited being restructured, and we normally understood whether the holding company concept is being changed and modified and so on. Yes, we have seen the newspaper reports. Actually there is a misunderstanding about the word "restructured" and they also have put the heading as "restructured". Therefore, our answer to the question is, "No". I accept that reorganisation of the hierarchy etc. is

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.

internally being done. That is true. And that is being done to improve the efficiency of the working.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Sir, he has not replied to the various points I have made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said it is a matter of reorganisation, not restructuring.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Sir, it is good that the saleable steel production has increased. But my information is that actual steel production in 1986-87 has fallen short of the target by nearly a million tonne. I want to know the reasons for that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I will need a separate question for that.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि अभी जो स्टील अथोरिटी की गवर्निंग बाडी है, उसमें बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर कितने लोग हैं, कौन-कौन हैं, उनकी क्वालिफिकेशन क्या है, उनमें कितने पार्ट टाइम हैं, कितने फुल टाइम हैं और कितनी जगह कब से खाली हैं, इनको कब भरने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I will send the information to the hon. Member because I do not have it just now.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Sir, I am happy that reorganization is being done in SAIL for increasing efficiency. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether more financial powers will be given to different companies under the holding company so that decisions can be taken very quickly and efficiency can be increased.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes Sir, this is being considered.

SHRI V. NARAYANASWAMY: Sir, the honourable Minister has said that instead of restructuring, they have reorganized the whole structure. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether more than 1,600 employees, right from April 1986 to November 1986, have been retrenched or retired from service, especially retrenched from service, and what was the reason for it and what steps the Government has taken for re-employing those employees in other allied units.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you have the information, you give it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not have the information on retrenchment. If specifically asked, I will try to get it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, he means that reorganizing the hierarchy is restructuring. There is a report in the press that the Government is contemplating to increase the efficiency of the organization and to induct specialists from the private sector in the Board of Directors of SAIL, particularly, and there was a special report that you have decided you are going to decide to include some people from Tata in the SAIL. Is it true?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There is no such decision yet but we are not allergic to getting experts from outside.

Visakhapatnam Steel Project

*147. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:†

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the investment made till date in the 16 year-old Visakhapatnam Steel Project;

(b) whether the cost of production of Steel is likely to be Rs. 7000/- per metric tonne after taking into account the interest charges, depreciation and other basic over-head charges, and the 65 per cent capacity utilisation of the plant (India Today, dated the 15th March, 1987); and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the likely market price of the steel produced in this plant?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kailash Pati Mishra.